

February 15, 2006

Ms. Elizabeth Dycus
Chair
Vermont Board of Health
Burlington, Vermont

Dear Ms. Dycus:

Enclosed please find the plans of correction as required by the Board of Health for conditional licensure of the Vermont State Hospital.

Some items will require staged implementation as the hospital undertakes system change. Additionally, settlement agreement action steps negotiated with the Department of Justice will directly influence VSH work activities and performance outcomes. In these instances, VSH will need the flexibility to modify priority and time frames for corrective actions in order to satisfy all oversight entity requirements. VSH will demonstrate progress toward goals and plan modifications using the biweekly and monthly reports required by the Board.

Sincerely,

Terry Rowe, Executive Director
Vermont State Hospital

cc: P. Blake, Deputy Commissioner of Health
W. Beininger, DMH Legal Division
Members: Board of Health

Attachments

VSH Report – February 15, 2006

1. Department of Justice Status Report:

Since the Board of Health meeting, a Settlement Agreement with the Department of Justice is pending final approval at the Federal level.

2. Board of Health Problem List:

❖ VSH will comply in full with the State of Vermont Contract for Services

(Attachment A) identifies the responsibilities of the State of Vermont and Fletcher Allen Health Care and the recommendations contained in the Fletcher Allen Health Care Report dated October 31, 2005. Actions taken and current status for each item are identified.

Those areas which cross reference to the Department of Justice findings will be reported upon subsequent to a finalized Settlement Agreement.

❖ VSH will correct in full previously identified as well as currently existing safety concerns

(Attachment B) provides an itemized list of cited deficiencies and current status.

VSH has engaged the services of two independent safety reviewers who will tour the Hospital on February 21, 2006. The reviewers will submit a written report which VSH will provide to the Board. In the event that the reviewers make recommendations for further facility improvements, VSH, with the Department of Building and General Services, will incorporate these recommendations into the overall plan of correction.

❖ VSH will work toward future accreditation by CMS, JCAHO or similar standards.

A comprehensive work plan will cross reference the DOJ settlement agreement requirements and the Board of Health's reporting requirements to the appropriate CMS or JCAHO accreditation standard. Re-certification by CMS or accreditation by JCAHO will be pursued once key elements for improvement are in place with routinized monitoring plans. VSH will conduct a mock CMS or JCAHO survey in order to determine the Hospital's readiness to pursue certification or accreditation at that time.

❖ VSH will continue to comply with licensing requirements of 18 VSA section 1905, subsections 1,2,5,6,8,10,11,12,13,15,16, and 18 sub-sub sections A through E.

VSH continues to comply with all applicable licensing requirements of 18 VSH section 1905, subsections, and sub-sub sections.